



Agenda
Gateway Corridor Commission
March 10, 2011 - 3:30 PM

Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room
 8301 Valley Creek Road
 Woodbury, MN 55125

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions		
2. Approval of Agenda		Approval
3. Summary February 10, 2011 Meeting*		Approval
4. Consent Items		Approval
a. Checks and Claims*		
5. I-94 East Highway Study Presentation**	MnDOT	Information
6. Gateway Corridor AA Update*	Washington County	Information
7. Resolutions of Support*	Washington County	Discussion
a. New Stillwater Bridge		
b. County Involvement in CTIB		
8. Communications	Washington County	
a. Consultant Contract – Social Media*		Discussion
b. Google Analytics Update		Information
9. Legislative Update	Ramsey County	Information
a. State		
b. Federal*		
10. Other	Washington County	Information
a. NACo Rail Conference, April 27-29*		
b. Bus Tour		
c. Media Information		
11. Adjourn		

*Attachments

** Information to be provided at the meeting.

**Gateway Corridor Commission
February 10, 2011
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room**

Members	Agency	Present
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	
Lisa Weik	Washington County	x
Kathy Lantry	St Paul	
Will Rossbach	Maplewood	x
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	x
Mary Giuliani Stephens	Woodbury	x
Dean Johnston	Lake Elmo	
Dan Kylo	West Lakeland	x
Randy Nelson	Afton	x
Brian Zeller	Lakeland	x
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	x
Gary Kriesel, Alternate	Washington County	x
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Brett Emmons, Alternate	Lake Elmo	x
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland	
Pat Snyder, Alternate	Afton	
Peg Larson, Alternate	Lakeland	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	Present
Greg Watson	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	x
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	x
Doug Stang	3M	
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Tim Ramberg	St. Croix County	x
Zach Schwartz	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	

Others	Agency
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Don Place	Woodbury Economic Development Commission
Dave Schultz	West Lakeland Township
Todd Clarkowski	Mn/DOT
Josh Straka	Congresswoman McCollum's Office
Bill Goff	Mn/DOT
Bob Hughes	City of River Falls

Stephanie Eiler	Hill
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The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Weik.

Agenda Item #1. Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #2. Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Motion made by Zeller to approve agenda. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3. Summary January 13, 2011 Meeting

Motion by Reinhardt to approve the meeting summary as amended on page 11 b. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Consent Items

- a. Checks and claims: Motion by Rossbach to approve the consent items. Seconded by Reinke. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Schoenecker introduced Stephanie Eiler to present the highlights of the Alternative Analysis Study.

Stephanie presented a power point presentation which provided an overview of where the study is at today including details on the alternatives to go out for review at a series of public meetings at the end of the month. She indicated that we are on an eighteen-month schedule that is divided into three phases and we are currently in the Alternatives Development Phase-Phase Two-which includes narrowing down of the alternatives to go out to the public for comment. If the public agrees with these alternatives, those are the ideas that will continue for a detailed study in Phase Three. She reviewed the technical memos and noted that these have been reviewed and revised by the TAC and PAC. She presented the goals and specifically touched on the recent revisions of these goals as indicated in red in the packets. Ms. Eiler requested that this Commission approve this list of goals and objectives to go forward to the public meetings later this month. Motion by Nelson to approve these six goals and objectives. Seconded by Zeller. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Ms. Eiler continued to review the power-point presentation specifically relating to the public involvement and open houses. Kriesel questioned Wisconsin’s financial involvement, specifically if they are contributing funding to this partnership. Reinhardt also questioned how we are paying for the consultant services and if Wisconsin is funding any part of it. Schoenecker confirmed that, for the purpose of this study, the Gateway Corridor Commission has allocated the entire funds for the project. However, at the next step in the process, this Commission may consider looking at a cost participation piece, and approach Wisconsin to contribute to the funding. Reinhardt suggested that we are laying the groundwork for that now by tracking the time, so we may know what the amount of funding could be at the next level. Schoenecker

indicated that we could only give general numbers as to the portion of time and money that is spent on Wisconsin's piece of the study.

Schoenecker highlighted item number three in regard to the use of social media. He noted that the PAC discussed this at length in their last meeting, specifically the use of the social network Facebook. Schoenecker introduced Bob Hughes from River Falls to discuss this topic. He indicated younger people are the largest growing part of the population that uses mass transit. He also noted that the number one cause of death in young people is car accidents. Therefore, it would be beneficial to encourage the use of mass transit in young people. To do this, we need to get them involved in transit development. He referenced some low cost avenues of public involvement, which included Facebook as well as college campus news releases. Hughes indicated that Facebook is a great avenue to create more involvement with young people at a minimal expense. Additionally, mail distribution through college campuses can be relatively inexpensive. Finally, MPR 89.3 could broadcast these open house meeting details for free or small cost. Schoenecker referred the Commission to agenda #9 Communication Contract where we can discuss this topic further.

Ms. Eiler continued to inform the Commission of information on the PowerPoint presentation. She specifically identified the public involvement information including the dates and locations of the four public open houses, as well as the format that they will use at these open houses. She noted that there will be members of all committees available to answer questions and comments will also be accepted and responded to on the webpage. Giuliani-Stephens indicated that she felt that there should be a distinct time deadline noted on this webpage for the acceptance of questions. Reinke questioned if every question will be answered. Eiler responded that the comments will be grouped by issues and each issue will be addressed and responded to. Schoenecker informed the Members that, at the minimum, there will be an acknowledgement that the comment was received with an attempt to respond to most questions.

Eiler continued the review through the PowerPoint presentation on the Transit Technology Level 1 (Fatal Flaw) Screening. This included an overview of all rail transit technologies available in the United States today. Then they took all these technologies and reviewed them through a screening process. It was then determined that Street Car, High Speed Rail, Heavy Rail Transit, AGT, and Personal Rapid Transit were not compatible with this corridor and it is recommended they not be considered. She requested the approval of these recommended Alternative Technologies: Commuter Rail, Light Rail Transit, Bus Rapid Transit and Conventional Bus. Motion by Reinhardt to approve the Alternative Technologies with an amendment to Conventional Bus to read Conventional/Express Bus. Seconded by Nelson. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Eiler next reviewed the Initial/Fatal Flaw Alternatives Screening- Evaluation Criteria. This involved:

1. Transportation Mobility
2. Community and Agency Planning: Consistency with Transportation, Land Use and

Economic Development Plans.

3. Cost Effectiveness
4. Natural Environment

Rossbach asked about the definition of 'feasible' for criteria 3a and 3b and suggested that it be modified to reflect Eiler's verbal description of 'comparable to other transit investments in the region.' She asked for the approval of these criteria's for the public comment at the first round of open houses. Motion by Reinke to approve these criteria's. Seconded by Rossbach.

Approved. Motion Carried.

As Eiler resumed her presentation, she reviewed the initial alternatives considered. This involved clarifying the four segments of the corridor, which are:

- 1 -Downtown Minneapolis to Downtown St Paul
- 2 -Downtown St Paul to Woodbury
- 3 -Woodbury to Hudson
- 4 - Hudson to Eau Claire
 - 4 a Hudson to Baldwin
 - 4b Baldwin to Menomonie
 - 4c Menomonie to Eau Claire

This analysis process included working groups of Staff as well as the TAC, analyzing maps and putting all ideas through the criteria standards.

Alternatives:

1. No Build Alternative:
 - Bus shoulder lanes between the two downtowns
 - Central Corridor Light Rail
 - By 2030, all shoulder lanes will be extended through Woodbury
 - Improvements and enhancements to existing Park-n-Rides
 - Lane Controls- including intelligent transportation systems will be used as a regulating lane technique; not a managed lane.
2. Transportation Systems Management Alternative (TSM):
 - This will become the FDA's Baseline Alternative, after approval
 - Includes all no-build components extended to Hudson
 - Express bus service, increase size and number of Park-n-Rides, as well as Central Corridor Light Rail
 - By 2030, spot shoulder lanes will be added where congestion is projected from Hudson through to Eau Claire. No lanes will be added or taken away. Will use existing shoulders for buses and exiting traffic. Intelligent transportation system may be used to assist traffic.
 - Additional shoulders are considered on the I-94 Bridge. If there is no new Stillwater Bridge, projected traffic levels of I-94 Bridge will go from 89,000 in 2008 to 120,000 in 2030. More information will be detailed on this in the next phase.

3. Build Alternatives:

She indicated three types of Build Alternatives:

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Commuter Rail.

- a. BRT: She gave an overview of the maps that specifically detailed the route of the bus rapid transit downtown Minneapolis through Hudson all the way to Eau Claire. They would like to consider this route for analysis to see if it will work.
The second route option would get off I-94 and penetrate through the cities of Maplewood Oakdale & Woodbury.
- b. LRT Alternative: Start in downtown St Paul with a connection between the Union Depot and I-94, from St Paul to Hudson. Included in this option is LRT on the I-94 Bridge. She indicated that further research and study in the next phase of the development will indicate what is possible. Ridership and capital costs will be analyzed to see which segments would be most profitable. The suggestion, at this point, is to go forward to analyze if the LRT can be completed through this corridor.
- c. Commuter Rail Alternative: This plan has two alternative routes. A BNSF route north of the Central Corridor and a CP route to the south of Central Corridor, and then the Union Pacific route will go all the way to Eau Claire.

Eiler completed her presentation with a request to the Commission to approve these alternatives. Motion by Zeller to move the approval of the alternatives. Seconded by Reinhardt. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6. St. Croix River Bridge Presentation

Schoenecker introduced Todd Clarkowski with MnDOT to provide a presentation on the St. Croix River Crossing Project. He presented a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed details of this project. He provided an overview of the projects needs, the protected natural resources, and cultural resources as well as the existing park and recreation. He indicated that the project was conducted by a group of stakeholders which all held an interest in this area. This stakeholder group reviewed many details, and found a new location for the new bridge, south of the existing bridge. The stakeholder group also addressed what to do with the old lift bridge. These options included the creation of a bicycle and pedestrian facility that formed a connection to a Minnesota and Wisconsin trail system.

Legally, he noted, in 2007 the Sierra Club sued the Federal Government in reference to the long-term effect on the river-way. The courts determined on October 15, 2010, that there would be a direct and adverse effect to the scenic and recreational quality of the river-way and therefore the National Park Service cannot approve the project. He noted that this project could still be approved by the Federal Government. We are currently waiting for a congressional action at this time.

He also noted there is a new group formed called the Coalition for the St Croix River Crossing

Project. Mr. Clarkowski indicated that this group could be very instrumental in helping to support this project. Currently, MnDOT is working on the project development per suspension strategies. More information can be found at the project website:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/index.html>.

Kriesel questioned what the monthly cost increase of the project is as it is delayed. Clarkowski indicated it is a little over two million dollars per month on the \$635 million dollar overall cost, including inflation. Kriesel indicated that the main question for our Commission is what impact will the river bridge crossing have on the I-94 Corridor. Clarkowski introduced Bill Goff with MnDOT who has been involved in the analysis of the impact to the corridor if the river crossing does not go in by the 2030 projection. Goff indicated that they are just wrapping up the I-94/East Metro Corridor Study. This study analyzes existing volumes and 2030 projection. Specifically, he noted that with the new river crossing 108,000 trips per day are proposed across the I-94 Bridge in 2030. Without the new crossing, it is expected to have 122,000 trips per day, which is a 12% increase in traffic by 2030. Additionally, he noted that if the crossing is not built, east of Manning Ave would be operating at over capacity and the volume of 122,000 trips per day is approaching the capacity of the I-94 Bridge.

Kriesel questioned our position on this issue as it relates to our alternative analysis study, and Nelson asked if we should provide a resolution of support. Schoenecker referenced that at this technical level we would need to gather some information from the experts about the assumption of including the crossing or not in our analysis. This can be added to the agenda for next month. Goff indicated that he would forward some detailed maps that may aid in the research of the Commission.

Agenda Item #7. Insurance Coverage for Commission

Schoenecker indicated that we have LMCIT as the current insurance provider and they require us to complete some forms in order for them to provide a quote for insurance. The recommendation from the County Risk Manager is that this Commission does not waive monetary limits on the liability coverage waiver form. Motion by Reinhardt to approve the Insurance Coverage as recommended. Rossbach Seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #8. Recap of 2009/2010 Commission Activities

Schoenecker noted for the Commission Members to review the recap of the 2009/2010 Commission activities included in their packets.

Agenda Item #9. Communications Consultant Contract

Schoenecker referred Members to a memo included in their packets in regard to the Commission's communications needs for 2011. Schoenecker asked for the approval to move forward to enter into a contact with Tunheim, and will include an addendum that could consider including a social media network portion after further review and approval at a later date. Motion by Reinhardt to approve the Communications Consultant Contract. Seconded by Reinke. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #10. Legislative Update

Mike Rogers provided a brief review of the legislative update.

- a. State: Rogers indicated that Governor Dayton recently provided the State of the State Address and clearly referenced the fiscal mess he inherited. He talked about giving the administration a chance for changes and highlighted not only cutting funding but also looking at new revenue streams. He also indicated his interest in additional funding for schools and a desire for a billion dollar bonding bill. In the Legislature, The House approved a bill to cut \$900 million in spending over the next two years, but Governor Dayton wanted to address the whole budget at once.

- b. Federal: The expiration of the continuing resolutions that are funding the government will expire on March 4, 2011. Essentially, Congress will vote to have a continuing resolution through the end of the year. They will take last year's budget and use those numbers to fund government through the end of the year. One consideration would be to go back to 2008 budget levels and not use the 2010 funding levels. Additionally he noted, earmark items, or congressionally directed spending, have been banned from the House and Senate. Transportation side, the Chair John Mica would like to get a six year bill in place that would reauthorize SAFETEA-LU that expired in 2009. Weik noted that she will be in Washington the first week of March, for a 4 to 5 day conference on Legislative Delegation of the National Association of Counties.

Agenda Item #11. Other

- a. Summary of Meetings
Schoenecker informed the Commission there was a request to provide a summary of all meetings in one place for reference. He indicated that we would wait on the discussion of this item for a later date.

Agenda Item #12. Adjourn

Roszbach moved to adjourn. Seconded by Reinke. **Approved.** Motion carried. Weik called the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Agenda Item #4

DATE: March 3, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Checks and Claims

Included below is a summary of the invoices that have been received since the previous meeting:

Alternatives Analysis (CH2M Hill)

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 1, 2011 – January 28, 2010	\$36,821.27

Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.

Action Requested: Approval of Claims and Checks



Agenda Item #6

DATE: March 3, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Gateway Alternatives Analysis Update

The Gateway Alternatives Analysis (AA) started in October of 2010. Since that time, the consultant team, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) have been meeting and preparing for the open houses that occurred at the end of February and start of March. Four open houses were held along the corridor at:

- St Paul Union Depot (Feb 23)
- Woodbury City Hall (Feb 24)
- Eau Claire, Chippewa Valley Technical College (March 2)
- Hudson, St Croix County Government Center (March 1)

The materials that were approved at the February Gateway Commission meeting were presented at these open houses. Comparing the attendance at the open houses to each other, Woodbury had the greatest attendance with the other three being comparable to each other.

The consultant team will be compiling the comments received in writing or verbally from the open houses or via the website and e-mail. This information will then be brought back through the TAC and PAC for discussion and recommendation to the Gateway Commission.

Some of the next steps for the study will include:

- Discussion of alignment revisions and new alternatives based on public input.
- Meeting with staff from the individual communities to begin looking at potential station locations.
- Developing forecast ridership information for each of the alternatives
- Developing the service plan concept and begin to develop the service/operating plans for each alternative once stations are identified
- Preparing and submitting the Initiation Package to FTA

In addition, specific requests are coming in from various entities to have a presentation on the Gateway Corridor and the AA study. Here are the ones that we know of as of now:

- Lake Elmo Rotary Club - March 16
- Oakdale City Council – March 22
- Woodbury Lions Club - April 5
- River Falls Rotary Club - April 19



It is anticipated that these presentations will be given by Ted Schoenecker with a Commission or PAC member providing a brief introduction.

Action Requested: Information



Agenda Item #7

DATE: March 3, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Resolutions of Support

At the February meeting, Todd Clarkowski from MnDOT gave the Commission a presentation on the status of the Stillwater Bridge project. After the presentation, there was discussion on the position the Gateway Corridor Commission should take, if any, on the Stillwater Bridge. It was decided that this discussion would happen at the March meeting.

In addition, there was a request to include a discussion item about the Gateway Corridor Commission developing a resolution of support for Washington County to remain a member of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

Action Requested: Discussion



Agenda Item #8a

DATE: March 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Communications Consultant – Social Media

At the February meeting, the Commission approved the selection of Tunheim Partners as their Communications Consultant for 2011 for a cost not to exceed \$25,000, which was included in the 2011 adopted budget and work plan. The scope of work for those consultant services did not, however, include a social media aspect.

Based on direction from the Commission, staff requested Tunheim to prepare a scope of work for the creation and maintenance of a Facebook page for the Gateway Corridor Commission. That scope of work is included after this memo. The anticipated cost for the scope of work is \$8,000. Some of the key items for the Commission will include:

- Frequency of updates and new information to the Facebook page
- Staff's ability to dedicate time and resources to the Facebook page
- Policy on public comments and accessibility of the Facebook page

Action Requested: Discussion on potential inclusion of Facebook creation and maintenance scope of work addendum to the Communications Contract with Tunheim Partners for a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

MEMORANDUM

To: Gateway Corridor Commission
From: Tunheim Partners
Date: February 10, 2011
Re: Gateway Corridor Facebook Campaign

Per request, Tunheim Partners has reexamined its recommendation for implementing a Facebook page for the corridor. A Facebook page for the Gateway Corridor would be another useful communications tool for the commission. The page can provide useful information during the Alternatives Analysis Study (AA).

One challenge that we will continue to raise is creation of enough content throughout the year and after the conclusion of the AA study. It is important to generate or share relevant content on a regular basis to ensure a Facebook page is a good investment for the commission. Posting content every few months will not generate significant interest in the corridor or develop a large supporter base. At a minimum, we believe content needs to be developed and posted on a biweekly basis to generate enthusiasm and excitement for the corridor. While content may be easier to develop during the AA, generating enough content after the study may become challenging.

If the commission moves forward with approving the creation of a Facebook page, we have several recommendations:

- The Facebook page needs new content on a biweekly basis, if not more.
- To generate a large enough supporter base, we recommend purchasing Facebook ads for the first few months after it is created.
- The Facebook page will require vetting public comments. While it is important that the Facebook page is organic and engages the public, serious thought should be given to allowing citizens to post negative comments about transit or the project.

Timeline

With the commission's approval, Tunheim Partners will develop a Gateway Corridor Facebook page, which would be active within a week. Tunheim Partners will link the Facebook page to the official corridor website, making it easier for visitors to obtain updates. In addition to the website, the Gateway Corridor's Facebook page will be incorporated into the e-newsletter.

Tunheim Partners, working with Washington County staff, will help develop and post content to the site.

Budget

We estimate that eight hours per month is the minimum amount time required to adequately build and maintain the Facebook page. In addition to maintaining the Facebook page, we recommend spending a small amount of money on Facebook ads to increase awareness of the Gateway Corridor and build a larger supporter base.

Total investment for the rest of 2011, including up to \$500 for ads- **\$8,000**

MEMORANDUM

To: Gateway Corridor Commission
From: Tunheim Partners
Date: February 23, 2011
Re: Gateway Corridor Website January Analytics

Agenda Item #8b

The attached document outlines all important statistical information regarding the Gateway Corridor's website from the period of January 1–31, 2011. Below is a guide for understanding the numbers and percentages:

Visits: This is the total number of unique visitors to the website. Over the past month, there were 322 unique visitors to the Gateway Corridor website. This number increased compared to last month, which had 175 unique visitors to the website. The average amount of monthly visitors since the website's launch is 244.1.

Pageviews: This is the total number of pages that were viewed by visitors. In other words, each visitor will view anywhere from 1-5 pages during a visit. Over the past month, there were 885 pageviews on the Gateway Corridor website. This number of pageviews is significantly more compared to December's pageviews at 522, and more than December's 2010 monthly average of 823 pageviews.

Pages/Visit: This means that the average person visited 2.75 of the pages within the Gateway Corridor website. The average amount of pages visited on the website in the past six months is 3.1.

Percent Bounce Rate: The bounce rate represents the number of people who visit the Gateway Corridor website, view one page (generally the homepage) and leave the site completely. This past month, the bounce rate was 32.6 percent; a point six percent increase. However, a bounce rate lower than 50 percent is ideal, and a bounce rate as low as it was in January is great.

Avg. Time on Site: The average person spent almost two and a half minutes on www.thegatewaycorridor.com. Since the average person generally spends approximately one minute on a new website, visitors this past month took time exploring the website, reading content, and learning more about the Gateway Corridor. This is good news for the beginning of 2011.

Percent New Visits: The percentage of new visits for the month of January for the Gateway Corridor website was 58.07. While this number dropped the past month, it remains an enduring number since the Gateway Corridor's site-launch six months ago. It shows there continues to be a desire to learn about the Gateway Corridor. The percentage of new visits in December 2010 was 67.46.

**Traffic Sources
Overview:**

Search Engines, Referring Sites, and Direct Traffic make up the three descriptors and determine the source of where the visitor found the Gateway Corridor website link. Search engine tools are how 29.81 percent of January visitors found the Gateway Corridor website – this number results from people purposefully searching for the website, and most importantly, finding it. Referring sites, which in the past have made up the majority of website traffic, resulted in 33.23 percent for the past month; a slight drop compared to December’s 34.29 percent. These are people who clicked a referral link (inside an email, press release, etc.). Finally, direct traffic made up 36.96 percent, which represents the number of people who typed the link into their web browser. This number increased compared to December’s 22.29 percent.

Referring Sites:

The following sites have contributed to the most referring links that successfully directed traffic to the Gateway Corridor website in January:

- City of Oakdale’s website – 15 visits
- wcco.com – 11 visits
- Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) – 10 visits

Content Overview:

This section of the Google Analytics shows which pages within the Gateway Corridor website visitors go to most often. The following numbers show how many visitors clicked each page in January:

- Homepage- 338 (38.19 percent)
- Transit study page- 152 (17.18 percent)
- Commission Members page- 109 (12.32 percent)
- Recent News page- 86 (9.72 percent)
- About the Gateway Corridor page- 74 (8.36 percent)

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the Gateway Corridor website, or any of the Google analytic terms.



Site Usage

322 Visits

32.61% Bounce Rate

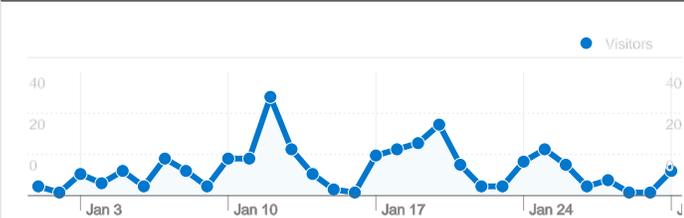
885 Pageviews

00:02:23 Avg. Time on Site

2.75 Pages/Visit

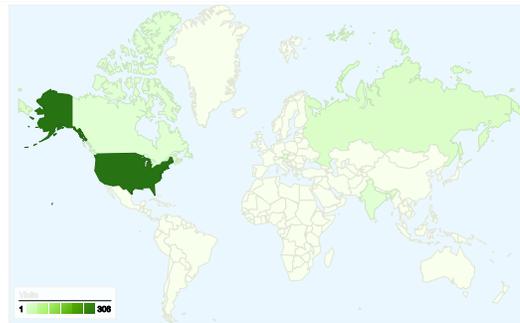
58.07% % New Visits

Visitors Overview



Visitors
216

Map Overlay



Traffic Sources Overview



- **Direct Traffic**
119.00 (36.96%)
- **Referring Sites**
107.00 (33.23%)
- **Search Engines**
96.00 (29.81%)

Content Overview

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	338	38.19%
/html/transit-study-gateway-	152	17.18%
/html/commission-	109	12.32%
/html/recent-news.php	86	9.72%
/html/about-gateway-	74	8.36%



216 people visited this site

 **322 Visits**

 **216 Absolute Unique Visitors**

 **885 Pageviews**

 **2.75 Average Pageviews**

 **00:02:23 Time on Site**

 **32.61% Bounce Rate**

 **58.07% New Visits**

Technical Profile

Browser	Visits	% visits	Connection Speed	Visits	% visits
Internet Explorer	201	62.42%	Unknown	98	30.43%
Firefox	86	26.71%	Cable	86	26.71%
Safari	17	5.28%	T1	67	20.81%
Chrome	14	4.35%	DSL	66	20.50%
Opera	2	0.62%	Dialup	5	1.55%



All traffic sources sent a total of 322 visits

-  36.96% Direct Traffic
-  33.23% Referring Sites
-  29.81% Search Engines

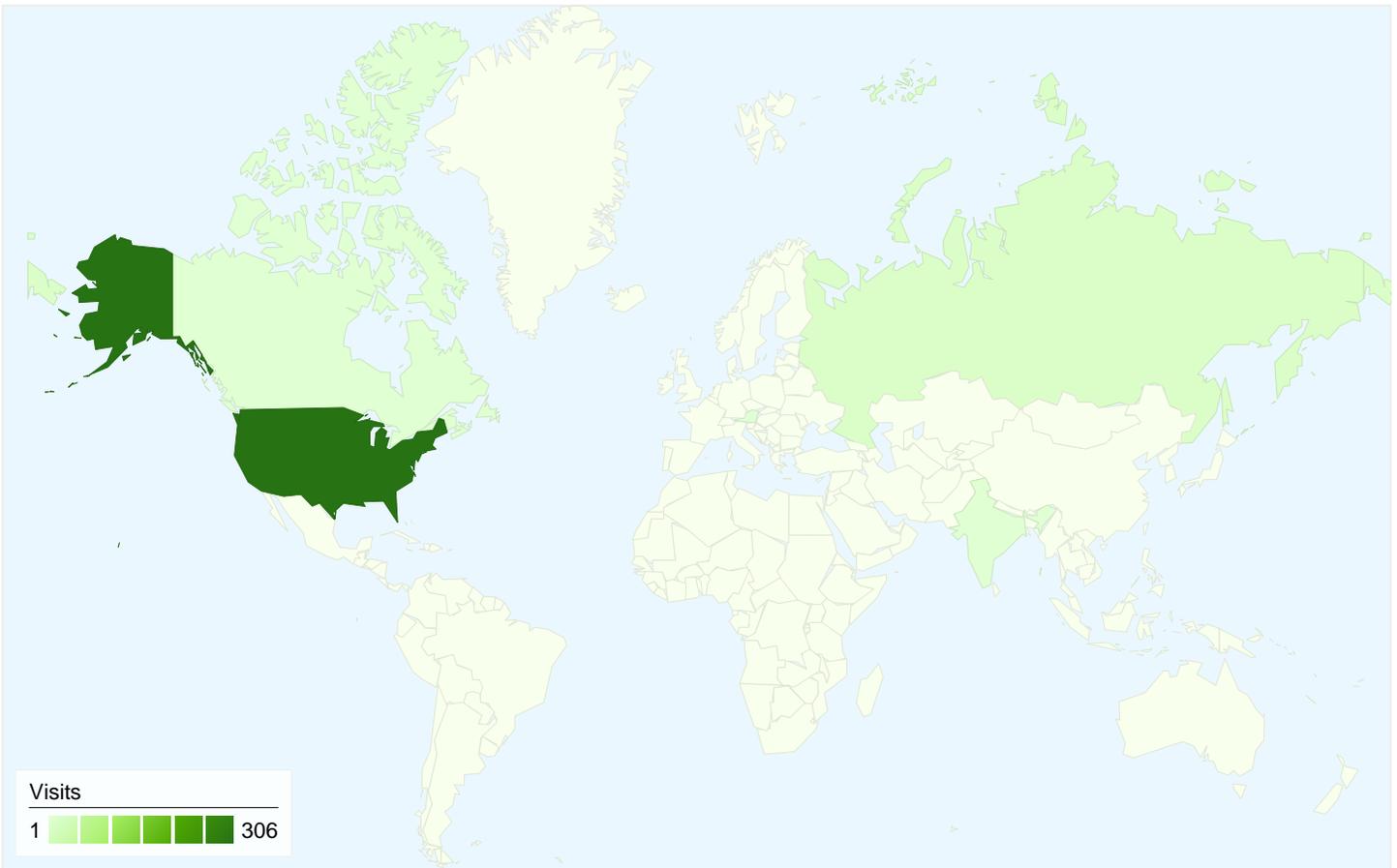


- Direct Traffic
119.00 (36.96%)
- Referring Sites
107.00 (33.23%)
- Search Engines
96.00 (29.81%)

Top Traffic Sources

Sources	Visits	% visits
(direct) ((none))	119	36.96%
google (organic)	80	24.84%
exchange.carsoup.com	26	8.07%
oakdale.govoffice2.com	15	4.66%
bing (organic)	13	4.04%

Keywords	Visits	% visits
gateway corridor	46	47.92%
gateway corridor commission	10	10.42%
the gateway corridor	6	6.25%
gateway corridor commission -	4	4.17%
gateway corridor minnesota	4	4.17%



322 visits came from 5 countries/territories

Site Usage

Country/Territory	Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
United States	306	2.83	00:02:28	55.88%	29.74%
Russia	11	1.00	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%
Canada	2	1.50	00:04:11	100.00%	50.00%
India	2	1.00	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%
Austria	1	2.00	00:00:34	100.00%	0.00%

1 - 5 of 5

Visits 322 % of Site Total: 100.00%	Pages/Visit 2.75 Site Avg: 2.75 (0.00%)	Avg. Time on Site 00:02:23 Site Avg: 00:02:23 (0.00%)	% New Visits 58.07% Site Avg: 58.07% (0.00%)	Bounce Rate 32.61% Site Avg: 32.61% (0.00%)
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Pages on this site were viewed a total of 885 times

 **885** Pageviews

 **712** Unique Views

 **32.61%** Bounce Rate

Top Content

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	338	38.19%
/html/transit-study-gateway-corridor.php	152	17.18%
/html/commission-members.php	109	12.32%
/html/recent-news.php	86	9.72%
/html/about-gateway-corridor.php	74	8.36%



Agenda Item #9b

DATE: March 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Federal Update

Include below is the latest federal update from Lockridge Grindal Nauen. Attached is a listing of the latest Congressional Delegation members and key staff.

Action Requested: Information

Federal Update – Week of February 28th, 2011

Finishing up a busy week on Capitol Hill, White House officials and Congressional Leaders held a meeting yesterday on a spending plan for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Senate is now headed for a series of test votes next week on competing Democratic and Republican spending plans for the rest of the year. Neither approach is expected to win the 60 votes necessary to advance, but by bringing up both measures for a vote, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) will have an opportunity to publicly show that neither party can push through their preferred option without changes. With the current stopgap expiring on March 18th, the two parties only have a couple weeks to work out their differences and clear new spending law.

Budgets:

Earlier this week, Congress cleared a two-week stopgap spending bill (PL 112-4) that will keep the government funded until March 18th, averting a government shutdown. The Senate now has two more weeks to either bring the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011* (HR 1), which funds the government through the rest of the fiscal year to a vote or outline and pass their own plan for cutting spending and keeping the government funded through September.

The overwhelming support for the House package that passed this week, which includes a \$4 billion in spending cuts, signaled the newfound popularity of austerity after November's elections and with the deficit projected to hit \$1.5 trillion this year. The spending cuts came from programs that President Obama proposed to terminate and from funding that previously had been earmarked. Republicans hailed the cuts as the first of many, but Democrats have warned that they do not want a series of short-term bills and have urged House Leadership to compromise on their demand for a \$61 billion cut in a long-term bill.

President Obama recently issued a statement saying he was pleased with the passage of the Continuing Resolution "CR", but urged lawmakers to work on a longer-term, bipartisan budget deal. There is a wide



gap between Democrats and Republicans over spending cuts, as well as difficult hurdles involving policy provisions that were included in HR 1, such as language to defund the health care overhaul law. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities "CBPP" this week released a state-by-state analysis of the impact of many of the bill's spending cuts, including to education programs, job training, mental health and substance abuse block grants, low-income housing programs, and community development block grants. Overall, CBPP calculates that HR 1 would require a 25 percent cut to non-security spending for the remainder of the fiscal year, with a 39 percent cut to programs in the Agriculture spending bill, a 37 percent cut to Transportation-HUD programs, and a 26 percent cut to Labor-HHS-Education programs and activities.

Transportation:

On Thursday, March 3rd the Senate passed the *Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011* (H.R. 662) by a voice vote and the House passed the measure on Wednesday, by a vote of 421-4. The measure is the latest in a series of extensions of surface transportation programs. The bill would extend the authorization for highway, transit and road safety programs until September 30, 2011. The legislation distributes money to states in the same amounts approved in fiscal 2010. Additionally, the bill would extend the authority to spend money from the Highway Trust Fund, which is financed primarily through gasoline taxes, as well as taxes on truck and tire sales.

House Leadership recently expressed concern before passage that the Highway Trust Fund is on an unsustainable path. The 18.4 cents-per-gallon gasoline tax has not been increased since 1993 and highway spending has outpaced revenue, leading Congress to keep the fund solvent in recent years through transfers from general tax revenue. On the other hand, supporters argue that the extension would provide state and local transit agencies with some level of predictability so they can embark on major construction projects that will create jobs and stimulate the economy. Extending the programs through the end of fiscal 2011 also would provide more flexibility for House and Senate transportation and public works authorizers to assemble a long-term bill.

As part of its preparation for drafting a long-term bill this year, the House Transportation panel recently completed nearly a dozen surface transportation field hearings and listening sessions throughout the country. Democratic and Republican members of the committee emphasized their plan to move forward in a bipartisan fashion to reauthorize the programs.

SPECIAL NEWS, NOTES, AND EVENTS

LGN Joins Minnesota State Society Board of Governors

Tuesday March 4th, 2011

LGN Team Member Emily Tranter was recently elected to the Minnesota State Society Board of Governors in Washington D.C. Ms. Tranter attended her first board meeting on Wednesday March 4th, 2011. The purpose of the Minnesota State Society (MSS) is to encourage social, educational, charitable, patriotic and civic programs; to promote and encourage activities which will serve effectively to enhance and promote the prestige of the State of Minnesota; and to sustain a sense of pride for the State of Minnesota among the members of the Society as well as visitors and the public in general.

Association of Minnesota Counties Annual Capitol Hill Reception

Saturday, March 5th, 2011



LGN's Federal Relations Team is hosting a reception in the home of Dennis and Elena McGrann from 4:00-6:00pm to kick off the annual National Association of Counties (NACO) Washington, DC fly-in honoring and celebrating the 112th Congress.

Minnesota Federal Issues Briefing

Sunday, March 6th, 2011

Lockridge Grindal Nauen will be briefing Minnesota county officials on current and future legislative issues being cultivated on Capitol Hill at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Capitol Hill Staff Updates:

Senator Al Franken (D-MN) announced Wednesday, March 2nd that he has hired former Minnesota State Representative and Chairman of a key House Agriculture Committee, Al Juhnke, to handle agriculture, energy and environmental outreach for him in Minnesota. Juhnke, who served 14 years in the State Legislature, chaired the House Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Finance Committee. He will be stationed in his hometown of Willmar, but will travel throughout Minnesota on Senator Franken's behalf.

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Senator

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Chief of Staff: Jonathan Becker
Travis Talvitie

Senator Al Franken

Senator

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Transportation Staff:
Brian Kessler

Congressman John Kline

Second District

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Phone: (202) 225-2271
Chief of Staff: Jean Hinz
Transportation Staff:
Yelena Vaynberg

Congressman Erik Paulsen

Third District

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Phone: (202) 225-2871
Chief of Staff: Laurie Esau
Transportation Staff:
Noah Jacobson

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Fourth District

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Chief of Staff: Bill Harper
Transportation Staff:
Peter Frosch

Congressman Keith Ellison

Fifth District

1027 Longworth House Office Building
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Phone: (202) 225-4755
Chief of Staff: Kari Moe
Transportation Staff:
Scott Ferriss

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann

Sixth District

103 Cannon House Office Building
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Chief of Staff: Andy Parrish
Transportation Staff:
Chase Kroll

Congressman Collin Peterson

Seventh District

2211 Rayburn House Office Building
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Chief of Staff: Cherie Slayton
Transportation Staff:
Chris Iacarus

Congressman Chip Cravaack

Eighth District

508 Cannon House Office Building
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Chief of Staff: Mike Tomberlin
Transportation Staff:
Paul Blocher

The 2011 Rail Conference – Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century



Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, April 27-29

Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel and Executive Conference Center, Lisle/Naperville, Illinois

Make plans now to attend the 2011 Rail Conference – Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century, in Lisle/Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, conveniently located between Chicago's O'Hare Airport and Midway Airport. Sponsored by National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, National Association of Regional Councils and American Public Transportation Association, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city and state governments and their citizens and businesses. It will look at the movement of freight in the urban, suburban and rural communities of the United States and discuss who will pay to modernize and expand passenger and freight rail systems. This conference is for you if you have ever asked why the freight industry operates the way it does, had questions about economic growth and the availability and affordability of freight rail, wanted

to have commuter rail in your region or wondered about the future of high-speed rail. Participants will get to meet and hear from experts in the field, including representatives of the rail industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the shippers who use the system, commuter rail experts, Amtrak and proponents of high-speed rail. The conference will conclude with a half-day discussion on where we go from here; how city, county, regional and state governments can work together with the freight and passenger industry to influence federal legislation and policy; and both reduce the negative impacts from freight rail movement and improve passenger rail service in America.

Register Today!

The registration fee for this conference is \$150.00 and includes an opening reception, breakfast both mornings, a luncheon, and refreshments during the day.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, April 27

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Optional Tour of Rail Facilities at the Joliet Rail Yard

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Opening Reception

Thursday, April 28

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Panel 1 - Movement of Freight Rail Today

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Panel 2 - Passenger Rail - Present and Future Issues

Thursday Continued

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch and Main Speaker

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Panel 3 - The Next Twenty-Five Years

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Panel 4 - Long Term Investment/Needs and Impact of Expansion of Freight on State and Local Governments

Friday, April 29

9:00 - 12:00 Noon

Where Do We Go From Here: A Conversation Among Local, State and Federal Officials

Please visit www.naco.org/railconference for updates and more information.



2011 Rail Conference – April 27-29

Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel and Executive Conference Center Lisle/Naperville, Illinois

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Government, Company or Association: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please check category that applies:

- Elected Official Government Staff Other
- I will participate in the Joliet rail facilities tour (No Cost – Transportation Provided - Attendance Limited)

Registration fee: \$150

The registration fee covers an opening reception, breakfast both mornings, a luncheon and refreshments during the day.

Payment method: Please check one:

- Check American Express Visa Mastercard Discover

If paying with a credit card, please complete the following:

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

(Your signature authorizes NACo to charge your credit card for the total amount due)

Hotel Reservations

Hotel Reservations MUST be made directly with the Wyndham Lisle. Discounted rate is **\$112 (plus tax)**. This rate will be honored 3 days prior and 3 days after the meeting dates. Please call the hotel directly to make your reservation at **(866) 615-4206** or **1- 800-WYNDHAM** and be sure to reference **"NACo 2011 Rail Conference"** to receive the group rate.

Deadline to book is March 28, 2011 as long as rooms remain available in the NACo room block. After March 28, hotel room or rate availability can no longer be guaranteed. Should you need to cancel your hotel reservation, you must provide at least 24 hours notice prior to arrival date to avoid penalty.

Return Completed Form To:
Registrations may be faxed to (866) 741-5129
Mailing a check? Send to:
NACo
PO Box 79007
Baltimore, MD 21279-0007
Questions? Please e-mail: nacomeetings@naco.org



MEMORANDUM

To: Gateway Corridor Commission
From: Tunheim Partners
Date: March 4, 2011
Re: Gateway Corridor Open House Coverage February – March 2011

Agenda Item 10c

The attached document is a recap of all media coverage regarding the Gateway Corridor's open houses from the period of February 1 – March 3, 2011. Below are numbers garnered for print, online, radio, and broadcast:

Print: 8 articles

- South Washington County Bulletin, Feb. 10, 2011
- River Falls Journal, Feb. 10, 2011
- Star Tribune, Feb. 16, 2011
- Woodbury Bulletin, Feb., 16, 2011
- Pioneer Press, Feb. 16, 2011
- Maplewood-Ramsey County Review, Feb. 18, 2011
- Hudson Star-Observer, Feb. 23, 2011
- Stillwater Gazette, Feb. 25, 2011

Online: 6 articles

- MinnPost.com, February 9, 2011
- MinnPost.com, Feb. 16, 2011
- WoodburyPatch, Feb. 22, 2011
- KSTP.com, Feb. Feb. 24, 2011
- OakdalePatch, Feb. 25, 2011
- VolumeOne Magazine- Eau Claire, March 1, 2011

Radio/Broadcast: 5

- WHWC FM 88.3 (Eau Claire, Menomonie), Feb. 18, 2011
- WAYY 790AM and WAXX 104.5 (Eau Claire), Feb. 18, 2011
- South Washington County Telecommunications, Feb. 24, 2011
- WEAU13 (Eau Claire), March 1, 2011
- WIXX AM 1590 (New Richmond), March 2, 2011